

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

GEORGIA POWER COMPANY
OGLETHORPE POWER CORPORATION
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AUTHORITY OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DALTON, GEORGIA

DOCKET NO. 50-321

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-57 issued to Georgia Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and the City of Dalton, Georgia (the licensees) for operation of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Unit No. 1 (the facility) located in Appling County, Georgia.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The proposed action would permit the licensees to implement changes (called the Average Power Range Monitor/Rod Block Monitor/Technical Specification (ARTS) Improvement Program) to Hatch Plant, Units 1 and 2, and Technical Specifications as described in their letter of February 6, 1984, as supplemented September 6, 1984. The following assessment applies to Unit 1.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The need for the proposed action is to:

- (i) reduce the need for manual setpoint adjustments and allow for more direct thermal limit administration;
- (ii) improve the quality of electronic hardware in the Rod Block Monitor; and
- (iii) change certain operating limits to bring about consistency among the various changes being implemented.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed action improves the accuracy of indications provided to the operator for control of thermal parameters in the reactor. The net power level is unchanged. The response of the reactor protection system under accident conditions is unchanged. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed change otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Occupational exposures to radiation would also be unaffected. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed amendment.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed change involves systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR 20. No nonradiological effluents are affected, and no other environmental impact would occur. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed change.

Since we have concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed changes to the TSs, any alternatives to these changes will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the Final Environmental Statement related to Hatch Unit 1 operation (Final Environmental Statement dated October 25, 1972).

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Agencies and Persons Consulted: The Commission's staff reviewed the licensees' request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

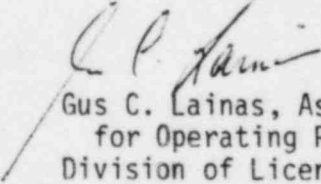
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated February 6, 1984, as supplemented September 6, 1984, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Appling County Public Library, 301 City Hall Drive, Baxley, Georgia.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 7th day of December 1984.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Gus C. Lainas, Assistant Director
for Operating Reactors
Division of Licensing